World Bank assistance for irrigation projects

4641. SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the world Bank has decided to provide assistance; for eight irrigation projects in India in the next four years; and

(b) if so, what have been the criterion for project Area selection and the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI P. K. THUNGON): (a) No, Sir.

(b) General criteria adopted by the World Bank for project area selection include:

(i) The State is the basic administrative unit for irrigation implementation and would be used as the institutional base for more projects.

(ii) Projects focussed on improving a specific aspects of sector performance! but with access to project funds by a number of states;

(iii) Consideration of very selective lending supporting regional development priorities; and

(iv) Consideration of projects supporting water resources planning and development on a river basin basis.

Constitution of International Water Management Commission

4642. SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that all the! north Bihar rivers originate from the Himalayan in the Nepal region;

(b) whether it is a fact that these rivers got flooded almost every year;

(c) whether it is a fact all these are tributaries of the river Ganges;

(d) whether it is a fact that most of the Water flows to the sea through Bangladesh; and

(e) if so, whether Government would constitute an International Water Management Commission in collaboration with these countries with details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI P. K. THUNGON): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. All major rivers of North Bihar are tributaries of Ganga. They originate in Himalayas and bring floods almost every year due to excessive rainfall in their catchment.

(d) and (e) No, Sir. Several projects have been constructed and planned to harness the river waters by agreement between the concerned countries through existing Commissions.

Special component plan for Harijans and Tribal sub plans for Bihar

4643. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Central funds have been provided for the special component plans for Harijans and also for the Tribal sub plans to the State of Bihar in the recent past;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;'

(c) whether it is also a fact that State Government has not utilised the funds so far;

(d) if so, the details thereof and reasons therefor; and

(e) what actiin Government propose to take in this regard?